



A news bulletin for employees of the
Michigan Department of Corrections

Expecting Excellence Every Day

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Special Edition

Budget Update: Senate subcommittee passes recommendations

It's no secret that a solution to the state's budget woes will require some drastic action on the part of state government, but today the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Judiciary and Corrections proposed a lengthy list of cuts that would slash nearly \$29 million from the \$1.8 billion Department of Corrections budget recommendations made earlier this year by the Governor.

While the subcommittee reported the bill to the full Senate Appropriations Committee, keep in mind that the budget is still far from complete.

These recommendations are simply one step in the multifaceted budget process.

Any actual changes to the budget would first have to be approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee, the full Senate, the House and the Governor. These recommendations are a long way from making that journey intact.

MDOC Director Patricia L. Caruso is taking steps to make sure that staff are kept informed.

"This is the first that I've heard of these specific recommendations," said Director Caruso. "And, I want staff to be assured that we will keep them up to date with information as it becomes available. I also want to reassure everyone that these recommendations are subject to many considerations and changes. Nothing is final at this point."

Among the changes recommended by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee:

- **Newberry Correctional Facility:** Closure of the Newberry Correctional Facility and Camp Manistique eliminating 1,144 beds and 345 full-time employees.
- **Michigan Youth Correctional Facility:** Restoration of funding for the facility with a recommendation for contract renegotiations to reduce cost by \$1 million.
- **Huron Valley Complex:** Reduction in funding of \$5 million in expectation of efficiencies found through consolidating facilities and changes with the Department of Community Health services.
- **Initiatives to Control Prison Growth:** Re-entry programs are funded and funding for jail capacity initiatives and sentencing guidelines is eliminated.
- **Hepatitis C:** Elimination of the \$1,150,000 Hepatitis C line item.
- **Parole and Probation Special Operations Program:** MDOC is required to reimburse the city of Detroit for providing law enforcement escort to parole and probation officers when making after hours visits to offenders.
- **Offender Tracking Information System:** The department is required to maintain public access on OTIS to the files of former offenders in the same manner as current offenders.
- **Female Prisons:** A plan is required to remove male staff from female housing units along with the designation of someone in each facility to ease the complaint process. Referral of all claims of criminal conduct to the Michigan State Police.

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continued from page 1

“Our first goal is the safety of our communities and the safety and security of our facilities. We are also highly concerned about our staff,” said Director Caruso. “The recommendation to close Newberry and Camp Manistique came as a surprise to me. Those facilities are efficient and very well run and we do not support their closure.”

Newberry Correctional Facility is the site of a large farming complex that provides vegetables for prisoners and food banks. In addition, approximately 20 percent of the GEDs (General Educational Development) issued by the department come from the Newberry facility.

Remember, this proposal is just one step in a long and complicated budget process. None of the recommendations made today can be enacted until the Legislature has the opportunity to review, make changes and vote on the budget bill. The bill must then be signed by the Governor.

We will keep you informed along the way with regular budget updates in [FYJ](#) and special editions devoted to the budget process. Keep in mind that the final budget is a long way from being approved. [FYJ](#).